

How to Understand Greatness in God's Kingdom

The Seat of Glory (Mark 10:35-45)

Proposition: Every one of Jesus disciples must come to terms with the three truths concerning greatness in the Kingdom of God in this text before us tonight.

- I. **We see the Want of Self** (Vs. 35-37)
 - A. A Want that is Blind (Vs. 37a; 33-34)
 - B. A want that is Boastful (Vs. 37b)
- II. **We see the Will of Surrender** (Vs. 38-40)
 - A. A Will that is Given in Ignorance (Vs. 38-39a)
 - B. A Will that is Graced by Identification (Vs. 39b-c)
 - C. A Will that is Granted an Inheritance (Vs. 40)
- III. **We see the Way of Significance** (Vs. 41-45)
 - A. The Perceived Way of Significance (Vs. 42)
 - B. The Prescribed Way of Significance (Vs. 43-44)
 - C. The Preeminent Way of Significance (Vs. 45)

The Seat of Glory (Mark 10:35-45)

5. Oswald Sanders, the Missionary

Here in our text we see James and John compelled by that same urge for a higher seat. A seat or a position of glory. Oswald Sanders probably did not want this important position to bring glory or gain to himself personally. This could be said of James and John. Maybe they felt as though they were the most qualified or the most gifted at this position for God's ultimate glory. But whatever their reasoning is, Jesus clears out the way to greatness and significance in the Kingdom of God. Now you may be telling yourself, well I don't need greatness I don't want a seat of significance. But more than likely there is deep down a desire to be remembered or looked up to or to be an influence. Help the Olympic runner doesn't win w/ an I just want to be a medalist attitude. You ought to want to be the head of the class when it comes to being a disciple of

I. We See the Want of Self (35-37) - Now there is no doubt that we see that initially this is a selfish motivation. A rather childish one at that. (35) Mama I want to ask you for

... and then I will see

yes. Matthews account puts even their mother at the scene
A. A Want that is Blind (37a) 33-34) ch
verses 33-34 Jesus has just told them
in the most graphic of description thus far
how he was to die. And James + John pull
him aside and say, "Can I have a throne
over me too? One right next to you Jesus"
The blindness of Jesus disciples is never
greater than when He spoke of His suffering
In MK 8 Peter rebuked Jesus, in MK 9 Disciples
argued as to who was greatest. And here an appeal
for self exaltation. Blind to his words and
blind to His Will and his way. ^{We do some things} Don't get soiled up at

B. A Want that is Boastful (37b) - There
is no question that a boastful selfish
ambition was driving such a request.
A desire for self exaltation. Oh to
be sure, it was not a self exaltation
that Lucifer showed in Ezekiel when he
aspired to position above God. No it was
just one above all the other disciples.
Look at what they asked. This was a request for
a prayer in faith believing, based on the Word of
God. Yet it was a selfish prayer not to be
answered James 4:2-3. We are to always ^{our motives} analyze

II. We See the Will of Surrender - I
often have reality check conversations w/
my kids. They come saying I want this and
I want that. Then I explain the I am working
as hard as I can to keep food in their mouth

- 1) J. Oswald Sanders, the missionary statesman and Bible teacher who for many years directed Overseas Missionary Fellowship, once wrote about a time when he wanted a particular position in the Christian world very much. Having friends in positions of influence, he was about to see if some strings could be pulled to turn the job in his direction. He was toying with the idea of doing a little lobbying. But while walking down the main street in Auckland, New Zealand one day, turning the matter over in his mind, as he walked past His Majesty's Theatre, a verse of Scripture came to his mind with tremendous authority and powerful conviction: "Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not!" (Jeremiah 45:5). "The words came just as though it was God speaking. There were crowds all around me, and no one else heard the voice, but I heard it all right!" Sanders later said. "I believe that was a real turning point in my service to the Lord." As a result, he did not seek the position, but it later opened to him on its own in God's good timing.
- 2) ...a disciple of Jesus. That's why it is so important that we understand this passage. Every one of Jesus disciples must come to terms with the three truths concerning greatness in the Kingdom of God in this text before us tonight.
- 3) James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

1) "...know not what you ask..." was a reality check statement.

2) Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

3) 1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

close on their back and hear their heart. "Ye know that..."

A. A Will that is Given in Ignorance

Jesus speaks of a cup which though out the bible is used to refer to life experiences God has for man. Ps 36:6 "Caprimulthauer" Is 51:17 "the cup of Lords

wrath. Also baptism. It always means submerged. Jesus was not merely sprinkled at Calvary w/s sinners & suffering but submerged completely. They said yes. They had no idea what lie ahead Bleeding & Suffering

B. A Will that is Graced by Identification

When we surrender our will to his we have by the grace of God, the joy of entering into the sufferings of Jesus. Paul said that his pursuit in life was Phil 3:10

③ Ye shall say that phrase is so sweet. We can enter into the sufferings of discipleship not alone, but in identification and companionship

C. A Will that is Granted an Inheritance

Jesus finally answers their question. That's to be seen in the future day of Judgment. He didn't say Know, He didn't say yes but referred them to a day of reward. What is it Peter said in 1 Peter 1:3-5

III. We See the Way of Significance

(41-45). These other disciples got all bent out of shape over this question. Not righteous indignation over such a selfish

though at first. But Jesus tenderly corrects

A. The Perceived Way of Significance (43)

In verse 42 Jesus gets right to the heart of the problem. Their whole concept of Significance is coming from the world. They saw that greatness came from those in authority & position ^{like} the example that Jesus was living right in front of them. Aspiring to be the greatest ^{like} chieftain you can be fine. But what do you picture that looks

B. The Prescribed Way of Significance (43-44)

The way of the world is not the way of God. Boy that's such a true statement that I wish many could get a hold of. The way to be significant is not to climb to a King it is to sink to a servant. This is the way through the Bible, Joseph, Moses, David. Warren said, "Unless we know how to obey orders we do

C. The Preeminent Way of Significance (45)

This statement from Jesus is not a do what I say not what I do statement. He not only talked the talk, but walked the walk. If the rank of our greatness is determined by how low we can go, then no wonder that God hath highly exalted him and given him ³ Because he came down

IV. Closing - J. Oswald Sanders wrote later. I asked of God that He should give success; to the high ⁴ I sought for Him to do I asked that every hind

- 1) ...corrects their thinking concerning significance in the Kingdom of God.
 - 2) ...to obey orders we do not have the right to give orders. Before a person exercises authority, he or she must know what it means to be under authority.
 - 3) Adorations of heaven to the abominations of earth: Coronations of heaven to the condemnations of earth: Delights of Heaven to the defamation of earth: Glory place to the gory place: Majesties of heaven to the miseries of earth: Hallelujahs of heaven to the hisses of earth: Praises of heaven to the persecutions of earth: Songs of heaven to the sneers of earth...to become the servant of Jehovah, to redeem the souls of sinful men! Not wonder is it to be highly exalted above all principalities and powers in the universe. What a servant! What a saviour!
 - 4) ...every hindrance might grow less and that my hours of weakness might be few, I asked that far and lofty heights be scaled – and now I humbly thank Him that I failed. For with the pain and sorrow came to me a dower of tenderness in act and thought, and with the failure came a sympathy, An insight which success had never brought. Father I had been foolish and unblest if thou hadst granted me my blind request.
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